



STONEWALL 1969



MIKE FUNK

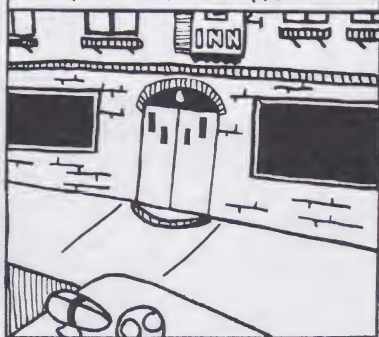
IN THE HUMID, EARLY MORNING HOURS OF JUNE 28, 1969, POLICE RAIDED A BAR IN NEW YORK CITY.



LIQUOR LICENSES WERE DENIED TO ESTABLISHMENTS THAT SERVED "HOMOSEXUALS."



THE MAFIA OWNED MOST OF THE CITY'S GAY BARS, AND PAID OFF THE NYPD TO STAY IN OPERATION.





THEY WENT TO STONEWALL FOR MORE THAN
A PAYOFF, BUT ONLY SENT A HANDFUL OF
OFFICERS. QUEERS WERE "EASY TARGETS"
FOR POLICE TO MEET ARREST QUOTAS.



TROUBLE BEGAN AROUND 1:30 AM, WHEN
POLICE LINED UP AND ARRESTED
CERTAIN STONEWALL PATRONS.

SYLVIA RIVERA



ROUTINE WAS, "FAGGOTS
OVER HERE, DYKES OVER
HERE, **FREAKS** OVER
THERE, REFERRING
TO MY SIDE OF
THE COMMUNITY.

AT THAT TIME, NEW
YORK LAW REQUIRED
AT LEAST 3 ITEMS OF
"GENDER APPROPRIATE"
CLOTHING.



THE QUEENS
AND THE REAL
BUTCH DYKES
WERE THE
FREAKS.





BARTENDERS AND OWNERS WERE ARRESTED, ALONG WITH ANYONE WITHOUT PROPER ID AND ANYONE WHOSE APPEARANCE "CONFLICTED" WITH THEIR SEX, WHICH WAS DETERMINED BY AN INVASIVE AND OFTEN ABUSIVE VISIT TO THE BATHROOM.

WHILE THE POLICE WAITED FOR BACKUP, A CROWD GATHERED ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE BAR.



THE CROWD BOOED WHEN AN OFFICER SHOVED A DRAG QUEEN.

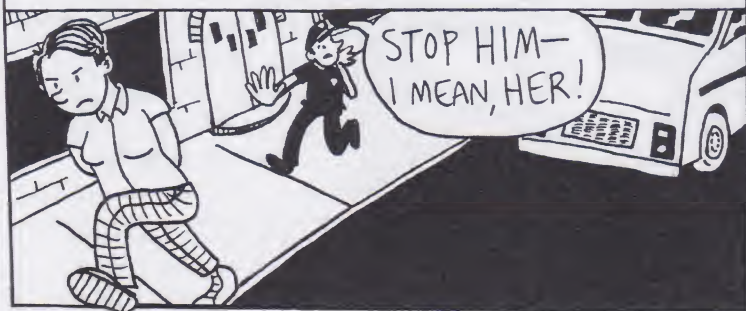


AND CHEERED WHEN SHE FOUGHT BACK.

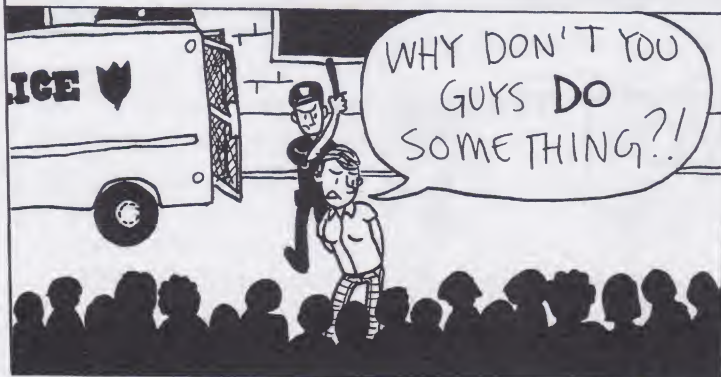


THE EXACT CATALYST FOR THE VIOLENCE AND DISORDER THAT DESCENDED ON GREENWICH VILLAGE THAT NIGHT VARIES AMONG WITNESSES, JOURNALISTS, AND HISTORIANS.

A CRITICAL INCITING INCIDENT
OCCURRED WHEN A "DYKE DRESSED
IN MEN'S CLOTHING RESISTED
ARREST.



A PERSON POLICE RECORDS IDENTIFY AS MARILYN
FOWLER FOUGHT OFF 4 COPS FOR 10 MINUTES,
UNTIL SHE WAS STRUCK WITH A CLUB AND
THROWN INTO THE PADDYWAGON. BEFORE SHE
WAS CAPTURED, SHE SHOUTED AT THE CROWD.

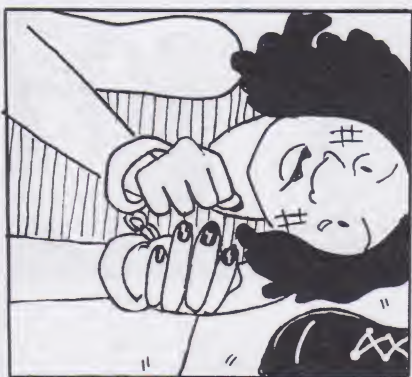


A DRAG QUEEN ALSO RESISTED ARREST

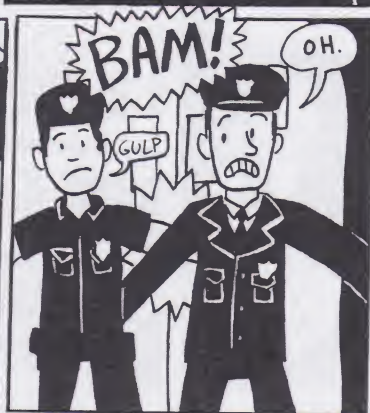


THE CROWD
BEGAN TO
THROW POCKET
CHANGE, ROCKS,
AND BROKEN
BOTTLES AT
THE POLICE.





STONEWALLING





I HAVE BEEN GIVEN CREDIT
FOR THROWING THE FIRST
MOLOTOV COCKTAIL THAT NIGHT
BUT I ALWAYS LIKE TO
CORRECT IT:



WHAT THE HELL
AM I SUPPOSED TO
DO WITH THIS?

THROW IT BEFORE
IT BLOWS!

OK!



ALL
HELL
BROKE
LOOSE...

AND HELL
HATH NO
FURY LIKE
A DRAG
QUEEN
SCORNE.



CARS WERE
OVERTURNED,
WINDOWS
WERE
SHATTERING,
FIRES WERE
BURNING...
IT WAS
BEAUTIFUL.



MARSHA P. JOHNSON
REPORTEDLY
CLIMBED UP A
POLE AND THREW
ROCKS AT COPS.
RUMOR HAS IT,
SHE BROKE A
WINDSHIELD WITH
HER PURSE.

WHEN THE TACTICAL POLICE FORCE (A MILITARIZED POLICE
UNIT THE CITY INVESTED IN TO COMBAT RACIAL UPRISING
IN HARLEM) FINALLY ARRIVED, SYLVIA AND OTHERS
LINKED ARMS IN A CHORUS LINE AND SANG.



WE ARE THE
STONEWALL GIRLS,
WE WEAR OUR
HAIR IN CURLS!



WITH ONLY 13
ARRESTED
NEARLY 1,000
RIOTERS LEFT
THE STREET BY
DAYBREAK BUT
RETURNED TO
CAUSE CHAOS
THROUGHOUT
THE WEEK.

THE MYTHOLOGY OF STONEWALL BEGAN BEFORE
THE STREETS WERE CLEARED. THE VILLAGE
VOICE JOKED DERISIVELY THAT THE RIOT
WAS CAUSED BY JUDY GARLAND'S DEATH.



THOUGH MANY
GAY MEN HAD
ATTENDED HER
FUNERAL EARLIER
THAT DAY, THE
POP ICON WAS
NOT AN URGENT
CONCERN FOR
THE GENDER
VARIANT SEX
WORKERS AND
HOMELESS KIDS
WHO SLEPT IN
THE PARK ACROSS
FROM STONEWALL

MANY GAY ACTIVISTS SEEKING TO MAKE
HOMOSEXUALITY "RESPECTABLE," WERE
NOT PLEASED WITH STONEWALL



RANDY WICKER OF THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY

FIRST GAY RIOTS

PAGE 3

WE STAFFED THE ADVOCATE FOR MONTHS

The **ADVOCATE**

50¢
50¢
50¢

18 GROOVY GUYS
INCLUDES PAGE 122



STILL, MEDIA COVERAGE
OF STONEWALL BROUGHT
QUEER OPPRESSION TO
THE MAINSTREAM. BUT
MANY PUBLICATIONS
WROTE ABOUT IT AS
AN UPRISING OF WHITE
GAY MEN.

JOURNALISTS PICKED
AN ANGLE, AND SOON,
SO DID HISTORY.

THE FIRST GAY PRIDE MARCH, JUNE 28, 1970



STONEWALL HAS COME TO
SYMBOLIZE A POINT OF ORIGIN
FOR GAY RIGHTS IN THE U.S.
BUT NOT ONLY WERE THESE
RIOTS NOT THE FIRST
MOMENT OF QUEER RESISTANCE,
FRAMING THEM AS A "GAY"
UPRISING ELIDES THE FACT
THAT THE RIOTS WERE AS
MUCH ABOUT POVERTY, RACISM,
AND GENDER AS THEY WERE
ABOUT SEXUALITY.

THE RIOTS WERE
A RESULT OF BOTH
SPONTANEOUS
COMBUSTION AND
DECADES OF
STRUGGLE—
A CONVERGENCE
OF FORCES IN ONE
TRANSFORMATIVE
MOMENT.

DON'T LISTEN
TO THE
WHITEWASHING
HYPE
ABOUT STONEWALL
1969.



BLACK
TRANSGENDER
WOMEN WERE
ON THE FORE-
FRONT FIGHTING
FOR OUR HUMAN
RIGHTS.



AND WE ARE
STILL
FIGHTING FOR
OUR RIGHTS.



DAVID CARTER, GAY HISTORIAN AND AUTHOR OF STONEWALL UPRISING, CLAIMS THAT SYLVIA RIVERA WASN'T AT THE RIOTS. SHE AND MARSHA AREN'T ALIVE TO REFUTE HIS CLAIM. BUT EVEN IF IT IS FICTION, HER STORY TELLS TRUTHS THAT HAVE BEEN OBSCURED BY RACISM, TRANSPHOBIA, AND MISOGYNY.



IN THE WAKE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST TRANSGENDER WOMEN OF COLOR, THEN AND NOW, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO HONOR THE LEGACY OF SYLVIA, MARSHA, AND OTHERS, BY TELLING THEIR HISTORIES OF RESISTANCE AND FIGHTING ALONGSIDE WOMEN AND QUEERS OF COLOR TODAY.